Hezhou language

Hezhou (Chinese 河州话 *Hézhōuhuà*) is a creolized mixed language spoken in Gansu Province, China. It has been the lingua franca of Linxia (formerly Hezhou) for several centuries. It is based on Uyghur and perhaps Salar. It has been relexified by Mandarin Chinese, so that nearly all roots are of Chinese origin, but grammatically it remains a Turkic language, with six noun cases, agglutinative morphology and an SOV word order. Grammatical suffixes are either Turkic or Chinese in origin; in the latter case they have been divorced from their original function and bear little to no relation to Chinese semantics. The phonology is largely Chinese, with three tones, though Hezhou tone sandhi is unusual from a Chinese perspective.[2] It may be that Hezhou tone differs between ethnic Chinese, Hui, Dongxiang and Bao'an speakers, though there is no indication that such differences occur among native speakers.[3]

Hezhou was once thought to be a Chinese language that had undergone heavy Turkic influence with an ongoing loss of tone; it is now believed to be the opposite, with tone acquisition perhaps ongoing.[2]

Hezhou	
Native to	China
Region	Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture (approximating the former Hezhou Prefecture), Gansu Province
Language family	Uyghur-based creole, or Uyghur–Mandarin mixed language
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (`mis`)
Glottolog	`hezh1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/hezh1244)`[1]

References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Hezhou" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/hezh1244). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Mei Lee-Smith (1996) "The Hezhou language", in Wurm et al. (eds) *Atlas of Languages of Intercultural Communication in the Pacific, Asia, and the Americas,* pp 865–874.
3. Dillon (2013) *China's Muslim Hui Community: Migration, Settlement and Sects*, p. 160.

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